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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT TOPIC Military Information from Riesa and Gachatz25X1 EVALUATION  PLACE OBTAINED  25X125X1 DATE OF CONTENT 25X1 DATE OBTAINED  DATE PREPARED 17 December 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 23 November 1953, the Mudra Kaserne in Riesa was occupied to capacity by about 1,500 to 1,600 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia, and black-bordered black epaulets.  25X1

At about 10 a.m. on 13 November, about 4 to 5 trucks, each occupied by about 20 troops, 10 T-34/85 tanks and 12 JS-1 tanks were seen leaving the installation toward Groedel, 4 km east of Riesa. The troops wore black-bordered black epaulets. At about 11 a.m., 6 T-34/85 tanks were seen near Groedel and, at about noon, 12 JS-1 tanks practiced river crossing near Merschwitz.

On 19 November, 2 T-34/85 tanks were seen in the barracks yard. On 20 November, 6 trucks occupied by a total of 120 to 150 troops left the installation toward Groedel for a river crossing practice.

2. On 23 November, the von-der-Goltz Kaserne was occupied by about 1,200 to 1,300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia; and black-bordered blue epaulets. Numerous troops, presumably recruits, who wore black-bordered crimson epaulets were observed in the installation on and after 19 November. All quartering buildings were lighted after nightfall.

Firing of carbines and machine guns was heard from the area southwest of the installation. On 13 November, about 35 to 40 air force soldiers left the installation toward Mertzdorf and were later seen receiving basic training in a wood patch near Mertzdorf. They returned to the installation at about 7 p.m. On 22 November, about 18 to 20 T-34/85 tanks  left the installation toward Zeithain. Motor vehicles  25X1

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3.  firing with carbines, submachine guns, machine guns and mortars was practiced in the Zeithain-Jacobsthal area, while 30 to 35 JS tanks were seen at the edge of the woods east of Gohlis. On 22 November, about 80 to 90 recruits received training with submachine guns in a wood patch near Mergendorf-Zahna and subsequently left toward Riesa. On 23 November, about 120 to 160 troops practiced firing with carbines and machine guns at the Riesa-Hexda firing range. Jeeps  were seen nearby. On 23 November, Camp Zeithain was heavily occupied. Between 18 and 23 November, reports of mortars, AT guns and tank guns were daily heard. The number of tanks and armored vehicles observed outside the installation and vehicular traffic in the

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vicinity of Zeithain had decreased.<sup>2</sup>

4. On 18 November, the Mudra Kaserne was occupied by about 700 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery and tank insignia, about 300 troops wearing black-bordered black epaulets, including some with motor transport insignia; and a few soldiers wearing blue-bordered black epaulets. [redacted] 1 pontoon between the vehicle sheds. [redacted]

5. [redacted] the troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and employed at the AAA emplacement were quartered in Camp Zeithain. At about 9 a.m., an undetermined number of troops received instruction on the guns. [redacted]

6. On 24 November, the west section of the Infanterie Kaserne in Oschatz was occupied by about 150 to 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and black-bordered black epaulets. The installation was only lightly guarded. [redacted]

The doors of the vehicle sheds of the installation, which are located in the area of the former Remonte Kaserne, were open. No vehicular traffic was observed.

7. On 24 November, the east section of the Infanterie Kaserne was occupied by only a guard detail. Sentries observed wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia.

[redacted] On 22 and 23 November, trucks [redacted] left the installation toward Oschatz.<sup>2</sup>

1. [redacted] Comment. As the 103th Tank Regt and the 70 Gds Tank SP Regt of the 9th Tank Div, which are stationed in Riesa, are equipped with medium and heavy tanks, they therefore, cannot individually be confirmed in the Mudra Kaserne and/or von-der-Goltz Kaserne. Information in paragraph 1 tends to indicate that the 286th Engr Bn (US) stationed in the Mudra Kaserne participated in river-crossing practices east of Riesa as late as November.

2. [redacted] Comment. The heavy occupation of Zeithain and the light occupation of Oschatz tend to indicate that the regiments of the 9th Tank Div stationed in Oschatz again transferred to Zeithain. It cannot be determined whether the transfer at that time was made for training purposes.

3. [redacted] Comment. The location of the AAA emplacement mentioned is undetermined.

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